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Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean

Summary record of the 453rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 24 July 2009 at 3 p.m.

Temporary Chairman: Mr. Sareva (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management)
Chairman: Mr. Palihakkara ..... (Sri Lanka)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Opening of the session

1. **The Temporary Chairman** declared the 2009 session open.

Election of the Chairman

2. **The Temporary Chairman** said that the former Chairman, Ambassador Kariyawasam, had returned to his capital. The delegation of Sri Lanka had agreed to continue to provide the Chairman of the Committee and had nominated Ambassador Palihakkara for that post. If he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to elect Ambassador Palihakkara as Chairman.

3. *Mr. Palihakkara (Sri Lanka) was elected Chairman by acclamation.*

4. *Mr. Palihakkara (Sri Lanka) took the Chair.*

Election of other officers

5. **The Chairman** said that all of the other officers of the Bureau had returned to their capitals. He had been informed that the delegations of Australia, Indonesia and Mozambique would be willing to continue to provide Vice-Chairmen. In keeping with the practice of the Committee and the decisions to revitalize and improve the efficiency of the General Assembly, he took it that the Committee wished to elect the Vice-Chairmen.

6. *Ms. de Zoeten (Australia), Mr. Erwin (Indonesia) and Mr. Macheve (Mozambique) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.*

7. **The Chairman** said that Mr. Randrianarivony of Madagascar had agreed to continue as Rapporteur.

Adoption of the agenda

8. *The agenda was adopted.*

Report of the Chairman of the Committee pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 60/48

9. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had made continuing efforts to agree on ways to implement the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace contained in General Assembly resolution 2832 (XXVI). The global strategic situation had changed significantly since the adoption of the Declaration in 1971. The so-called Cold War had ended and a number of disarmament issues had been resolved. The region had witnessed socio-economic development and growing regional cooperation. Many countries in the region had registered phenomenal economic growth, which had provided much-needed stability to the global system. However, non-State actors, including terrorist groups, now threatened international peace and security and efforts to achieve disarmament and arms control in the region had faltered. It was precisely because of such concerns that the aims of the Declaration remained relevant. It appeared from his consultations that Member States shared its broad vision and objectives.

10. Since the Committee had not been able to develop common ground to implement the Declaration, Member States might wish to consider new approaches. Indeed, the Committee might wish to mandate the Bureau to put forward preliminary ideas regarding such approaches and to recommend that the General Assembly allow additional time for consultations.

11. **Mr. Shah** (Pakistan) said it was unfortunate that even though Member States supported the broad aims of the Declaration, so little progress had been made. The framework before the Committee could help to develop new ideas. The diverse resources of the Indian Ocean provided ample opportunities for exploration. A list of those resources could be compiled, and its practical applications discussed at a later date. Efforts should also be made to ensure freedom of passage and the security of night-time traffic. The Committee should continue its work and, given more time for consultations, it could reach agreement.

12. **Mr. Cui** Wei (China) said that his delegation supported the efforts of the countries of the Indian Ocean to defend their sovereignty, peace and stability. States both within and beyond the region should work together on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and should refrain from acquiring armaments beyond their security and defence needs. His delegation agreed fully that the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean should participate in the Committee's work.

13. **Mr. Erwin** (Indonesia) said that his country had consistently supported the Declaration, which remained relevant. The States of the Indian Ocean should look back on the road they had travelled together and

engage in a frank exchange of views on ways to maintain peace. In reflecting on the future, they should seek to identify commonalities and involve the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean. Concerted efforts were needed in order to promote socio-economic development and examine ways to address the global financial crisis.

14. **Mr. Macheve** (Mozambique) said that the principle of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone of peace in the Indian Ocean was enshrined in the Constitution of Mozambique. He would work with the Committee to create a positive environment and make progress towards implementing the Declaration.

Adoption of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session (A/AC.159/L.140)

15. **Mr. Randrianarivony** (Madagascar), Rapporteur, introducing the draft report of the Committee (A/AC.159/L.140), explained that paragraphs 3 and 7 would be completed to reflect the statements made at the current meeting.

16. *The draft report was adopted.*

Closure of the session

17. The Chairman declared the 2009 session closed.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.